
Urban District of Moss Side.

R E P O R T

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE MOSS SIDE DISTRICT,

1900,

BY

S. HOLGATE OWEN, M.D., M.R.C.P., Lond.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Area of District in Acres:—

Whalley Range Ward	131
Claremont Ward	57
North Ward	58
East Ward	174
	<hr/>
	420
	<hr/>

Population (Census of 1891)	23,833
Estimated Population, 1900	28,000
General Death-rate per One thousand	12'9
Infant Death-rate per One thousand Births	143'5
Birth-rate per One thousand... ..	14'4

DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICE,

MOSS SIDE, 1901.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Moss Side.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report upon the Health of the District of Moss Side for the year 1900.

The statistics for the year, which are tabulated and discussed in this report, are upon the whole highly satisfactory as regards the sanitary state of the district. The general death-rate, although slightly higher than that of the previous year, is considerably below the death-rate throughout England and Wales; whilst the number of deaths among children under one year of age is much lower than that of the previous two years. There has been a great increase in the number of notifications of infectious disease; but it is gratifying to report that the mortality from this class of diseases and the zymotic death-rate are much lower than they were in 1899.

Scarlet Fever has been unusually prevalent during the latter part of the year, and upon one occasion a serious outbreak of the disease was threatened. I take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the prompt and zealous co-operation of the school authorities in the efforts made by your sanitary officers to check the progress of this and other epidemic diseases amongst children.

I beg respectfully to call your attention to that part of the report which refers to the necessity for taking more active measures for the prevention of tuberculosis.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. HOLGATE OWEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

General Mortality.—The number of registered deaths which have occurred in the district during the year 1900 amounted to 363—namely, 170 males and 193 females. In this number are included 25 which took place in the Chorlton Union Workhouse at Withington among persons admitted from Moss Side. During the previous year the total mortality amounted to 351.

The occurrence of these deaths in the several wards into which the district was divided in 1895 was, during the past five years, as follows :—

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Whalley Range Ward	55	71	67	82	65
Claremont Ward	79	78	82	81	81
East Ward	83	80	71	106	95
North Ward	86	67	71	78	97
Chorlton Union Workhouse...	4	16	13	4	25
Total	<u>307</u>	<u>312</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>363</u>

Estimating that since the Census of 1891 the population has increased from 23,833 to 28,000 in the middle of June, 1900, the general death-rate for the past year amounts to 12·9 per 1000. This rate is slightly higher than that of the previous year. It will be seen in Table I. that the death-rate for this district has been steadily declining every year from 1891 to 1898. There is good reason for believing that the population has increased during the past few years to a greater number than is indicated above. Probably, therefore, the death-rate for last year is much lower than it has been thought safe to estimate it. The death-rate throughout England and Wales for 1900 was 18·3 per 1000 living, whilst the number of deaths registered last year in the 33 large English towns were equal to an annual rate of 19·5 per 1000.

Infant Mortality.—The number of deaths among children under one year of age was 58. This gives an infant-mortality rate of 143·5 per 1000 births, which is considerably lower than that of 1899 (157).

These deaths as they occurred in the several wards were, for the past five years, as follows:—

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Whalley Range Ward	11	4	16	10	5
Claremont Ward... ..	19	21	16	18	17
East Ward	21	21	25	33	20
North Ward... ..	12	10	15	9	14
Chorlton Union Workhouse...	—	1	—	1	2
Total	<u>63</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>58</u>

The infant-mortality rate throughout England and Wales during the past year was in the proportion of 154 per 1,000 births.

The number of registered births during the year was 404—211 males and 193 females—which is equivalent to an annual birth-rate of 14·4 per thousand. The birth-rate throughout England and Wales was 28·9 per 1,000 living.

Table I. shows the population, death-rates, and birth-rates for the past 10 years.

TABLE I.

<i>Comparison of the Death-rates and Birth-rates from 1891 to 1900 inclusive.</i>									
	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899 1900
Population	24,000	24,000	24,000	25,000	25,500	26,000	26,500	27,000	27,500 28,000
Total number of deaths	389	347	322	304	319	307	312	304	351 363
Annual death-rates	16.2	14.4	13.4	12.1	12.5	11.8	11.7	11.2	12.7 12.9
Total number of births	507	499	472	463	413	416	406	453	452 404
Annual birth-rates	21.1	20.7	19.6	18.5	16.1	16	15	16.7	16.4 14.4

The estimates of population for the years 1892 and 1893, given in the above table, are probably too low, and if so, then the death-rates as well as the birth-rates for these years declined to a greater extent than is there stated. This decline in both the death-rate and the birth-rate is somewhat difficult to explain. A low birth-rate, or the addition to the community of fewer members among whom the mortality is usually high, should, theoretically, be attended with a low death-rate. Practically, however, this is not as a rule the

case. It will be seen by the above table that in 1897 the number of births in the district was 100 less than in 1891. The great diminution in the birth-rate may have been due to economic causes influencing the marriage-rate during the preceding years, but the reason that the death-rate of 1897 compares so favourably with that of 1891 may in some measure be due to the fact that of the undue proportion of births in the year 1891 a large number of children have survived to 1897, or to a period of life when the mortality-rate, as will be seen by the subjoined Table No. II., is greatly reduced.

The number of births in the district during the past year is the lowest recorded during any of the previous ten years, and in a population which has increased probably beyond the number estimated, the birth-rate for 1900 becomes extraordinarily low. Throughout the country there has been a steady decline of the birth-rate since the year 1876, when it stood at 36.3, until 1894, when it reached 29.6. The birth-rate of 1900 still shows a tendency to decline. In this district, the number of births in 1891 amounted to 507, whereas during last year the registered births numbered only 404, which gives a decline of 31.8 per cent. in the birth-rate during that decennial period.

So far as the marriage-rate is influenced by conditions of general prosperity, there is no reason to believe that economic causes have been specially prejudicial during the last few years; but here, as throughout the country, the voluntary avoidance of responsibility may be assigned as one important factor in the decline of fertility.

The results of the approaching census will, however, be looked for with great interest, as affording more certain data for the solution of the problem.

In the Appendix to this Report, Table IV. gives the deaths which have occurred in the district during the year 1900, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities. In table (III.) will be found the rate of mortality per 1000 of the population for each class of disease for the past seven years.

The next table gives the number of deaths occurring at the different age-periods during the past seven years; also the proportion per cent. of these deaths to the total mortality.

TABLE II.

Mortality at different periods of life during the past seven years.

	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Under 1 year of age.....	66 or 21.7	59 or 18.4	63 or 20.5	57 or 18.2	72 or 23.6	71 or 20.22	58 or 15.9
Between 1 and 5 years.....	30 „ 9.8	30 „ 9.4	20 „ 6.5	27 „ 8.6	17 „ 5.5	26 „ 7.40	18 „ 4.9
Between 5 and 15 years ...	11 „ 3.6	9 „ 2.8	10 „ 3.2	11 „ 3.5	8 „ 2.6	9 „ 2.56	10 „ 2.7
Between 15 and 25 years...	19 „ 6.2	15 „ 4.7	19 „ 6.2	13 „ 4.1	14 „ 4.6	24 „ 6.8	9 „ 2.4
Between 25 and 65 years...	110 „ 36.1	122 „ 38.2	123 „ 40.	112 „ 35.8	117 „ 38.4	141 „ 40.1	152 „ 41.8
Over 65 years of age	68 „ 22.3	84 „ 26.3	72 „ 23.4	92 „ 29.4	75 „ 24.6	80 „ 22.7	116 „ 31.9

Of the deaths in 1900 over 65 years of age, 62 were those of persons who had lived between 70 and 80 years, and 28 those of persons who were between 80 and 90 years of age; one had exceeded 90 years of age.

Zymotic Disease.—The total number of deaths from zymotic disease during the year amounted to 27, or '96 per 1000 of the population. This includes 10 deaths due to diarrhœa. The number of deaths from zymotic disease in 1899 was 43, or 1'56 per 1000.

The number of deaths throughout England and Wales resulting from the principal zymotic diseases was, in 1900, equal to a rate of 2'0 per 1000 living.

The following table shows the incidence of this class of disease in the various wards of the district. Of the total zymotic mortality, it will be seen that 12 deaths, or 44'4 per cent., were those of children under 5 years of age. In 1899 the number was 25, or 58'1 per cent. of the total zymotic mortality.

TABLE IV.

Mortality from Zymotic Disease, classified according to Localities, distinguishing Deaths of Children under five years of age.										
Wards	Age at Death	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Diarrhœa	Diphtheria	Influenza	Erysipelas	Total
Whalley Range ... {	Under 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	5 upwards	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
Claremont {	Under 5	...	...	3	...	3	...	1	...	7
	5 upwards	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	4
East {	Under 5	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	3
	5 upwards	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	5
North {	Under 5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	5 upwards	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	3
Total {	Under 5	1	1	4	...	5	...	1	...	12
	5 upwards	1	...	1	3	5	...	4	1	15

Infectious Diseases Notified.—The number of infectious diseases reported in accordance with the Infectious Diseases Notification Act amounted during the year to 163. This is the highest number which has been recorded during any of the past eleven years, excepting the year 1894, during which the Act has been in force in the district. It should be observed that certain diseases classified as zymotic are not notifiable in this district: measles, whooping cough, and influenza are not included.

The following is a classified list of diseases notified during each month of the years 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900 :—

TABLE V.

DISEASES NOTIFIED	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever or Typhoid	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever	Membranous Croup
Month	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
January.....	13 10	7 4	2 4	1 1	...	...
February.....	5 6 3 8	6 1 1 0 2 0	1 1 1 1	0 3 1	...	...
March.....	5 5 6 4 1	8 2 4 1 0 0 1	1 3 2 1 0	0 0 0	...	...
April.....	1 3 2 4 4	9 1 3 0 0 0 0	2 3 0 0 1	0 0 1	...	...
May.....	5 2 0 5 3	11 0 2 0 1 0 0	1 3 0 0 0	1 0 1	...	...
June.....	9 9 3 1 4	18 1 0 3 1 1 0	1 0 1 0 1	0 0 1	...	...
July.....	3 17 3 1 1	13 2 1 0 2 2 0	6 1 1 0 2	0 1 2	...	...
August.....	2 13 3 4 1	8 1 1 0 0 0 1	3 2 3 2 1	0 0 1	1	...
September ...	3 4 6 1 2	8 2 0 2 0 0 1	4 1 1 3 4	0 0 0	...	...
October.....	10 11 29 12 11	14 0 1 0 1 1 0	4 3 0 3 0	1 0 1	...	1
November ...	15 3 12 24 4	9 3 0 4 0 0 3	0 3 0 3 1	1 0 1	...	...
December.....	15 11 4 8 7	18 3 4 1 3 2 2	1 0 2 1 2 2	0 1 1	...	...
Total.....	86 94 73 86 49	126 16 17 14 12 7	17 28 17 17 4	5 10 7 9	1	1

Of the above cases, 66 were removed to the Monsall Fever Hospital.

In the following table (VI.) these removals are classified, according to diseases, for each month of the years 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900 :—

TABLE VI.

Table of Infectious Cases removed to Hospital, Classified according to Diseases, for each month of the year.

Year	Removed	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total re-moved
1897	Scarlet Fever ...	...	1	2	2	...	1	...	...	3	7	4	2	22
	Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	1	5
	Total.....	...	1	2	2	...	1	1	...	4	8	5	3	27
1898	Scarlet Fever ...	7	3	...	2	3	...	...	2	...	3	5	3	28
	Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Enteric Fever ...	1	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	10
	Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Total.....		8	3	1	3	5	...	1	3	3	4	6	3	40
1899	Scarlet Fever ...	3	1	...	3	...	2	...	...	2	4	2	3	20
	Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	4
	Enteric Fever ...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	6
	Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total.....		6	1	1	3	...	2	2	...	4	5	2	5	31
1900	Scarlet Fever ...	2	2	...	3	10	4	6	5	5	9	3	9	58
	Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	2	5
	Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total.....		2	2	0	3	10	5	6	6	7	10	3	12	66

Since the adoption of the Act by the Local Board in 1890, the notified cases of infectious diseases have occurred in the following numbers, arranged according to month and year :—

TABLE VII.

YEAR	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Month of January ...	0	12	4	6	12	17	13	5	20	11	10
„ February ...	18	6	8	12	13	6	13	4	11	8	8
„ March	19	12	9	10	13	8	10	10	6	2	9
„ April	6	11	4	10	16	3	6	5	9	4	9
„ May	10	3	4	14	13	6	6	1	10	3	12
„ June	10	5	5	13	19	10	11	7	3	6	20
„ July	13	4	8	9	13	11	24	4	5	5	15
„ August ...	8	7	9	6	12	4	17	6	8	3	11
„ September	15	7	8	12	9	11	5	9	4	6	10
„ October ...	22	18	7	12	19	14	13	30	18	16	19
„ November	8	23	15	20	10	22	3	20	29	5	16
„ December	10	14	15	9	20	19	16	8	13	11	24
Total	139	122	96	142	169	131	137	109	136	80	163

In the following tables (VIII. and IX.) the incidence of infectious diseases notifiable in the district, and the removals to hospital, are further analysed in reference to each of the Wards, and for each month of the year 1899 :—

TABLE VIII.

Table of Notified Infectious Cases classified according to Diseases, Localities, and Periods of the year 1900.

WARDS	Notified Diseases.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
NORTH WARD	Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	...	2	2	1	3	3	3	1	...	2	19
	Diphtheria ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Enteric Fever ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	4
	Erysipelas .....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
EAST WARD	Scarlet Fever .	1	5	4	5	7	4	5	2	4	2	2	10	51
	Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	Enteric Fever ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	5	5
	Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	3
	Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
CLAREMONT WARD	Scarlet Fever .	2	...	...	1	..	8	3	2	1	9	5	4	35
	Diphtheria ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Enteric Fever .	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	6
	Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	1
WHALLEY RANGE WARD	Scarlet Fever .	...	...	4	1	2	5	2	1	...	2	2	2	21
	Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	5
	Enteric Fever .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
	Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3
	Membranous } Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Total.....	10	8	9	9	12	20	15	11	10	19	16	24	163

TABLE IX.

Table of Notified Infectious Cases which have been removed to Hospital classified according to Diseases, Localities, and periods of the year 1900.

WARDS	Notified Diseases.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
NORTH WARD	Scarlet Fever .	...	...	...	...	3	...	2	2	2	1	...	1	11
	Diphtheria ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteric Fever.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Erysipelas.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
EAST WARD	Scarlet Fever .	1	2	...	2	5	...	1	1	2	2	2	4	22
	Diphtheria ....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Enteric Fever.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
	Erysipelas.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CLAREMONT WARD	Scarlet Fever .	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	6	1	3	18
	Diphtheria ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteric Fever.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
	Erysipelas.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WHALLEY RANGE WARD	Scarlet Fever .	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	7
	Diphtheria ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Enteric Fever.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Erysipelas.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Total.....	2	2	...	3	10	5	6	6	7	10	3	12	66

General Sanitary Condition of the District.

The above tables of mortality and sickness may be reviewed with regard to the general death-rate and that of each of the four wards; the incidence of infectious disease and its case-mortality; and the mortality from infectious diseases generally per 1,000 of the population, or the zymotic death-rate.

With regard to the amount and nature of the general sickness which has occurred in the district, our information is necessarily very much at fault. Beyond the mere notification of 11 diseases scheduled in the Infectious Diseases Notification Act of 1889, and such indirect information as can be obtained by enquiry at the schools and by house-to-house visitation, we have no returns which might enable us to form a correct estimate as to the amount of sickness existing in the district from time to time. We cannot, for example, ascertain accurately to what extent during any period of the year diseases of the respiratory organs have prevailed; and, consequently, the death-rate from such diseases, which is calculated in reference to the population, affords no information as to the proportion of deaths to persons affected—that is, the case-mortality—and very little knowledge of the special danger to life arising from diseases of this kind at any particular time. For economic as well as for scientific reasons, this absence of any method of general registration of disease is to be regretted. The number of deaths which have occurred in the district during the past year is slightly in excess of that for 1899. Comparing the mortality in the different wards, the greatest number of deaths occurred in North Ward, and the fewest in Whalley Range Ward. In East and North Wards the numbers were nearly the same. In East Ward the mortality of children under five years is still higher than that of any other ward, although considerably lower than it was last year. Of the total number of deaths in each ward, the percentage mortality amongst children under five years was as follows:—East Ward, 28·4; Claremont Ward, 24·6; North Ward, 18·5; Whalley Range Ward, 10·7. It is highly satisfactory to note that the infant mortality rate is lower than in 1899, although the

births were considerably fewer in number, whilst the total number of deaths from zymotic disease is nearly 38 per cent. lower than that of the previous year.

The number of deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs exceeded that of 1899, and was more than 18 per cent. greater than the average for the previous six years.

Heart disease also appears to have been unusually fatal, the mortality rate being the highest recorded for the past seven years.

The deaths from phthisis amounted to 29. From tubercular diseases of other organs than the lungs (abdominal tubercle and tubercular meningitis chiefly) the number of deaths was 12.

In the following table will be seen the occurrence of these deaths according to localities and age—above or below 5 :—

WARDS	Age at Death	Phthisis or Tubercle of Lungs	Tubercle of other Organs	Total from Tubercle generally
WHALLEY RANGE.....	Under 5	...	1	1
	5 upwards	2	...	2
CLAREMONT	Under 5	1	2	3
	5 upwards	8	1	9
EAST.....	Under 5	1	7	8
	5 upwards	3	...	3
NORTH	Under 5	1	...	1
	5 upwards	9	1	10
WITHINGTON WORKHOUSE.....	Under 5	...	...	...
	5 upwards	4	...	4
TOTAL	Under 5	3	10	13
	5 upwards	26	2	28

Of the total number of deaths last year, it appears that no less than 41, or 11·2 per cent., were due to tubercular disease. This is slightly higher than the percentage of deaths from this disease during the year 1899. The death-rate throughout the country from this form of disease has, during the past 50 years, been gradually but steadily declining, and it is interesting to note that this diminution in the fatality from tuberculosis has taken place during a period when general sanitary measures throughout the country have been most widely adopted.

It still remains, however, the direct cause of a high rate of death and sickness throughout the country. It has been estimated that some 60,000 deaths take place annually from tuberculosis in the United Kingdom, whilst probably thrice this number are constantly suffering from it.

It may safely be asserted that the existence and spread of this disease are largely dependent upon impurity of the air and absence of sunlight. It is met with chiefly in those localities where overcrowding, accumulation of refuse, general want of cleanliness, and absence of sunlight combine to make human life generally unhealthy. The microbe of tubercle finds in such conditions its most suitable environment. Infection by means of food, and especially milk, must be regarded also as having a widespread influence in the propagation of the disease, and especially as regards abdominal tubercle in children. In this respect the recent Order of the Local Government Board in reference to dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops is likely to be of great service to the Sanitary Authority in enabling them to deal directly with the danger arising from infected milk.

It is highly important, however, to recognise that the disease may be propagated not only by the ingestion of tuberculous milk and meat, but also from person to person, and to deal with it thoroughly as an infectious disease the notification of every case of phthisis appears most desirable. Such a measure would give accurate information as to the distribution of phthisis in a district, and the circumstances which favour the propagation of the disease.

It would, moreover, be of great assistance to the Sanitary Authority in their efforts to lessen the suffering and mortality which are widely due to this cause.

During the past year the following warning against milk contamination was widely distributed throughout the district in the form of a leaflet :—

*“ Moss Side Urban District Council—Precautions against
Milk Infection.*

“ Fresh milk may be contaminated with infectious particles, and thus be the means of conveying disease to the consumer. The infectious particles are sometimes derived from the cows themselves, sometimes from impure water used for washing milk vessels, and very often from the dust to which the milk may be exposed during transit or after delivery to the house. Diseases such as Scarlet Fever, Typhoid, Diphtheria, Diarrhœa, and Tuberculosis have been proved to arise in this way, and sometimes cause widespread epidemics.

“ To prevent the occurrence of disease in this manner, certain precautions should be taken. All milk should be sterilised ; that is, the infectious germs which it may contain should be destroyed, and this can be done very thoroughly and very simply by boiling it, either separately or after it has been added to other food.

“ Directly the milk has been received into the house, if not used for cooking purposes, it should be sterilised, then poured into a vessel which has been “scalded” with boiling water, and covered over with a perfectly clean cloth.

“ The vessel containing the milk should be kept in a cool place, the place itself being absolutely clean and protected from dust. Water added to milk, as for infant feeding, should be previously sterilised by boiling.

“ Patented apparatus may be bought for the purpose of sterilising milk. Some of these are very simple and effective ; but without any special apparatus, the process may be carried out either by simply boiling as above described, or by subjecting it to the heat

of boiling water, as follows:—A clean jar containing a pint or more of milk should be placed in a saucepan of cold water. This must be heated on the fire for half an hour. Then pour the milk into a bottle which has itself just been scalded thoroughly with boiling water, and plug the neck of the bottle with pure cotton wool. By the careful sterilising of milk, it is certain that much disease may be prevented, and that the terrible mortality from infantile diarrhoea may be greatly lessened.

“S. HOLGATE OWEN, M.D.,

“October, 1900.”

“*Medical Officer of Health.*”

Arsenical Beer Poisoning.—There has not been a single death in the district which has been registered as due to beer poisoning; but from information kindly afforded by the medical practitioners a few cases of peripheral neuritis, due to arsenic taken in beer, have been recorded. It is highly probable, however, that serious illness due to this cause has occurred widely if we may judge from the generally increased number of deaths due to certain diseases which are attributable to intemperance, the fatal tendency of excessive drinking being, at any rate as regards beer, reinforced by the action of arsenic taken even in small doses. It is a significant fact that during the past year the number of deaths in the district from cirrhosis of the liver was greater by over 45 per cent. than that of 1899.

Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of infectious disease (163) notified during the year 1900 as having occurred in this district was higher than that of any previous year (except 169 reported in 1894) since the adoption of the Notification Act in 1890. The lowest number of cases notified in one year occurred in 1899, when it reached 80. Scarlet fever is accountable for an increase of 77 cases on the previous year.

The notifications in each ward were as follows:—North Ward 26 cases, Whalley Range Ward 32, Claremont Ward 43, East Ward 62. In 1899 the cases notified were nearly equal in number in each of the wards.

A strict investigation as to the source of contagion was made in every case notified. This could, of course, only be partially successful.

In the following table the various sources of infection are, as far as possible, summarised :—

Disease	School Attendance	Imperfect Isolation at home	From other Children in the streets	Outside the District	Doubtful Sources	Total
Scarlet Fever	35	27	16	42	6	126
Diphtheria .. . . .	...	...	...	5	4	9
Enteric Fever.....	...	2	...	8	7	17
Membranous Croup..	...	...	...	...	1	1
Erysipelas .. . . .	...	...	...	3	6	9
Puerperal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total	35	29	16	58	25	163

Insanitary conditions of the houses, where notified cases of infectious disease occurred, were found in the following number of instances :—In cases of scarlet fever 36 houses, diphtheria 5, enteric fever 7, erysipelas 4, membranous croup 1.

These conditions were, as promptly as possible, dealt with by the sanitary officers ; but in only three instances were the defects found to be so serious as to constitute a source of grave danger to the inmates.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease, though lingering about in a mild form during the early part of the year, and due in many instances to infection from other districts, did not reach the average number of cases for the months of January, February, and March. At the end of April it became more prevalent, and continued so

until the end of the year, attaining its maximum about December 20th. During May several cases occurred in East Ward, and appear to have been due to infection from two patients whom the disease had attacked in a very mild form. Measles being prevalent at the time, it seems highly probable that a rapid increase of scarlet fever arose through mistakes being made by parents in discriminating between the two diseases. Imperfect isolation, however, has played a most important part in the increase of this disease during the past year. This becomes obvious from investigation as to the number of houses in each of which more than one person were attacked. This occurred in 20 of the infected houses—two, three, and even five people being attacked in one house. The schools have been frequently visited, and the school authorities have upon every occasion zealously co-operated with the sanitary officers in the adoption of precautionary measures. Advantage has been widely taken of the Monsall Hospital, no less than 58, or nearly one-half, of the scarlet fever patients having been removed to that Institution for isolation and treatment. Only one case, that of a child, proved fatal within the district.

Diphtheria.—Of this disease only nine cases were notified, and they occurred in nine houses—that is, one case to each house. This is the lowest number recorded for any year except for 1899. In five instances the infection was found to originate outside the district, the remaining four being doubtful as to their source of infection. Two cases only were removed to Monsall Hospital. No death from the disease was registered within the district. In five cases the bacteriological test was resorted to.

Enteric Fever.—The number of cases notified (17) was the same as last year, and 3·6 below the average number for the last six years. Five cases were removed to hospital. Three proved fatal within the district. Between February 18th and July 24th, a period of five months, not a single case of this disease was notified as occurring within the district. Two cases arose in each of two houses, and in one of these houses there was reason to believe that imperfect isolation was to blame for the illness.

The water or milk supplies in no instance appeared to be a source of infection. In five doubtful cases Widal's serum test was used. Fourteen cases were notified without this test having been adopted.

Measles.—Notification of this disease is not compulsory in this district, and there appears to be no reason to alter the opinion expressed in a previous report as to the necessity or advisability of including measles in the list of notifiable diseases. During the months of April and May, measles threatened to become serious in the extent of its outbreak. Upon its first appearance, active measures were at once adopted to check the progress of the disease. Upon every occasion the information afforded by the school authorities was prompt and complete ; and, whenever it was thought desirable by the sanitary officers, opportunities were given for an inspection of the scholars in class, or for an individual examination. All the public schools in the district were visited, and circulars advising isolation and other precautionary measures were distributed at every house where the disease was known to exist.

Erysipelas.—Nine cases were notified, being two more than during the previous year. In two instances there was evidence of the disease having been contracted outside the district. In six of the cases the persons affected were over 40 years of age, and in the remaining three over 18 years old. Three of the patients had previously suffered from the disease. One patient was removed to Monsall Hospital. One case proved fatal within the district.

Membranous Croup.—One case, and the only one which has been notified in the district since the adoption of the Act in 1890. Insanitary conditions existed at the house in which it occurred.

Puerperal Fever.—One case, the only one notified since January, 1894.

Diarrhœa.—There were 10 deaths from this disease, which is the smallest number recorded during any year since 1894, and nearly 35 per cent. less than the average annual mortality from this cause for the past six years.

Of the 10 fatal cases, only five were those of children under five years of age. The annual mortality from diarrhœa has during the past seven years always included a much larger proportion of young children. Of the total number of deaths from diarrhœa during that period, no less than 85 per cent. were those of children under five. With regard to the certificates of death from this disease, the Royal College of Physicians of London has in the record of its proceedings, dated January 25th, 1900, expressed an opinion that great confusion ensues from the employment of various misleading terms to designate the disease, such as *gastro-enteritis*, *muco-enteritis*, *gastric catarrh*, etc., whereby its specific character is in danger of being ignored. The College urges upon practitioners the entire disuse of such terms in medical certificates of death as synonymous of epidemic diarrhœa, and as the result of much deliberation "has agreed to authorise the use of the term *epidemic enteritis* (or, if preferred by the practitioner, *zymotic enteritis*,) as a synonym for epidemic diarrhœa."

In order that the prevalence of this disease may be accurately determined, both as regards places and times, and that the effects produced by sanitary measures may be ascertained, it appears most desirable that this suggestion as to deaths from diarrhœal diseases should be adopted.

Whooping Cough.—This disease is not notifiable. The registered number of deaths was five—four under 5, and one over 5 years of age; only once, namely, in 1898, has the annual mortality from whooping cough been less than this during the past seven years.

Smallpox.—No case of this disease has occurred in the district since 1894.

Influenza.—Five deaths were registered as due to this disease primarily, two having occurred in Claremont and one in each of the other wards. As far as can be ascertained, the disease has appeared to exist generally in a mild form.

APPENDIX.

Tables forwarded to the Local Government Board :—

TABLE I.

*Name of District—Urban District of Moss Side.
For Whole District.*

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births		Deaths under One Year of Age		Deaths at all Ages Total	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births register'd	Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1894	25,000	463	18·5	66	142·5	304	12·1
1895	25,500	413	16·1	59	142·8	319	12·5
1896	26,000	416	16·	63	151·4	307	11·8
1897	26,500	406	15·	57	140·3	312	11·7
1898	27,000	453	16·7	72	158·9	304	11·2
1899	27,500	452	16·4	71	157·	351	12·7
Averages for years 1894-1899	26,255	433·8	16·4	64·5	148·8	316·1	12·
1900	28,000	404	14·4	58	143·5	363	12·9

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of district in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 420.

Total population at all ages	23,833	} At Census of 1891.
Number of inhabited houses	4,665	
Average number of persons per house, about 5.		

TABLE II. of the Local Government Board is omitted, as the populations of the various wards into which the district is subdivided are not accurately known.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY				NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO MONSALL FEVER HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY			
	At all Ages	At Ages†—Years					North Ward	East Ward	Claremont Ward	Whalley Range Ward	North Ward	East Ward	Claremont Ward	Whalley Range Ward
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65								
Small-pox.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	4
Cholera.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	9	...	...	3	2	4	1	2	1	5	...	1	...	1
Membranous croup...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	3	1	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	9	...	...	...	4	5	2	51	35	21	11	22	18	7
Searlet fever.....	126	2	16	91	8	9	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	17	...	...	4	3	9	4	5	6	2	1	2	2	...
Relapsing fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	163	2	16	99	17	28	26	62	43	32	12	25	20	9

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES)				
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	North Ward	East Ward	Claremont Ward	Whalley Range Ward	Withington Workhouse
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles.....	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Whooping-cough.....	5	3	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	3	...	...
Diphtheria & membranous croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	1	...	...
Other continued...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	5	...	1	...	...	2	2	1	1	2	1	...
Cholera.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	10	5	...	...	...	1	4	...	4	4	2	...
Enteritis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas.....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis.....	29	3	...	1	3	22	...	10	4	9	2	4
Other tubercular diseases.	12	9	1	...	1	1	...	1	7	3	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease.	18	1	...	...	...	10	7	9	2	4	3	...
Bronchitis.....	48	4	5	1	...	10	28	11	19	9	7	2
Pneumonia	41	5	6	1	1	16	12	9	10	9	9	4
Pleurisy.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of respira- tory organs	5	...	1	...	...	2	2	2	...	2	1	...
Alcoholism (Cirrhosis of liver)	13	...	...	...	...	11	2	4	2	2	4	1
Venereal diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	1	1	1
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Heart diseases	43	...	...	3	2	21	17	13	7	10	12	1
Accidents	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...
Suicides.....	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1
All other causes	111	16	2	2	2	51	38	31	29	20	20	11
All causes	363	58	18	10	9	152	116	97	95	81	65	25

